

LEE COUNTY BLACK HISTORY SOCIETY (LCBHS) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



LCBHS Igniting the Future Scholarship Application

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 15, 2026

Full Legal Name: _____

Permanent Residence: _____

Home Telephone #: _____ Mobile #: _____

Email Address: _____

High School: _____ School Phone # _____

Graduation Date (high school applicant only): _____

I am applying for the undergraduate scholarship options: Yes___ or N/A

I am applying for the graduate scholarship options: Yes___ or N/A

Undergraduate degree earned (graduate level applicant only): _____

Check all that Apply:

African American/Black _____ Hispanic/Latino/a _____

Asian _____ White _____ Other _____

Have You Applied for College? YES _____ NO _____

Expected Entry Date for College (For graduate-level students only: Enter the term and year you began or plan to begin your program (e.g., Fall 2025)). _____

Intended major (Name of Program or Major, undeclared may be entered): _____

Required Supporting Materials:

I have included a copy of my acceptance letter: Yes _____

I have included a copy of my transcript (graduate level applicants, submit college transcript): Yes _____

I have included my two letters of recommendation: Yes _____

By submitting this application, I agree to all the terms of this agreement as established by the Lee County Black History Scholarship Committee. It is understood that the award of the scholarship shall be governed by any and all conditions established by the Scholarship Committee.

_____/Date _____
Applicant's Signature

_____/Date _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian

Available Awards and Important Information:

Igniting the Future (High School seniors only):

The Lee County Black History Society will select one student to award a one-year *Igniting the Future* scholarship in the amount of **\$2,500** for the student to attend a College/University of his or her choice. (Students with GPA 3.9 and above are eligible)

Igniting the Future Emerging Scholar (High School Seniors only):

The Lee County Black History Society will select two students to award a one-year *Igniting the Future Emerging Scholar* scholarship in the amount up to **\$1,000** for the student to attend a College/University of his or her choice. (Students with GPA 2.5-3.8 are eligible).

Lee County Black History Society Founders Book Scholar:

The Lee County Black History Society will select recipient/s to award a Book scholarship in the amount up to **\$1000** (Students with GPA 2.25- an up are eligible).

Mary McLeod Bethune Graduate Scholarship (graduate level students only):

The Lee County Black History Society will select **graduate level** recipient/s in the amount up to **\$4,000** for the student to attend a graduate program of his or her choice. (Students with a GPA 2.5 and above are eligible).

- The application process for the scholarship begins February 15, 2026.
- The application submission deadline is April 15, 2026 @11:59pm.
- The application and all supporting materials must be submitted by the deadline date- no late submission will be accepted. Send completed application and supporting materials to **scholarships@tlcbhs.org**
- Applications may be downloaded from the website at **www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org**
- Applications will not be considered after the deadline date of **April 15, 2026**.
- The selection committee will notify all applicants via email of the notice of decision.
- The Scholarship Committee will invite the finalist to be recognized at our Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 20, 2026. If the finalist is not available, please let us know immediately at **scholarships@tlcbhs.org**

Eligibility Requirements

- GPA:
 - *Igniting the Future (High School seniors only):*
 - 3.9 cumulative GPA or higher. A copy of the applicant's most recent transcript must be submitted with the application.
 - *Igniting the Future Emerging Scholar (High School Seniors only):*
 - 2.5 cumulative GPA to 3.8. A copy of the applicant's most recent transcript must be submitted with the application.
 - *Lee County Black History Society Founders Book Scholar:*
 - 2.25 cumulative GPA or higher. A copy of the applicant's most recent transcript must be submitted with the application.
 - *Mary McLeod Bethune Graduate Scholarship (graduate level students only):*
 - Graduate level- 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher. A copy of the applicant's most recent college level transcript must be submitted with the application.

- Must be a high school senior at the time of the application for undergraduate scholarships (Does not apply to Mary McLeod Bethune Graduate level scholarship, applicants must have earned an undergraduate degree)

- Must be a resident of Lee County, graduating from a Lee County School- high school applicants only.

- Must demonstrate how the scholarship will assist the recipient in pursuing their degree (Explained in the essay- prompt section of the application).

- Must have an acceptance letter from a college or university. *Graduate level only: Mary McLeod Bethune Graduate Scholarship applicant must be in a graduate program or accepted.*

- Must demonstrate good character, achievement, and potential for educational and career advancement by submitting two letters of recommendation:
 - One letter from a school official (e.g., coach, teacher, or staff member), and
 - One letter from an employer, minister, youth group leader, community coach, or a non-relative who knows you well and can speak to your character

- The application and all supporting materials must be submitted by the deadline date- no late submissions will be accepted. Send completed application and supporting materials to **scholarships@tlcbhs.org**

Supplemental Information and Essay
(This section is to be completed by the applicant)

Please print legible or type. If additional space is needed, an attached sheet of paper may be used. Please identify the question and then continue with your answer.

LIST HIGH SCHOOL/College ACTIVITIES YOU PARTICIPATED IN:

	<u>High School/College Activity</u>	<u>Date (Month & Year)</u>	<u>Position (player, member, President)</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

LIST PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date (Month & Year)</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>#Duration (once a month: 8hrs)</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

LIST ALL AWARDS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Describe one specific example of your leadership:

Share a time when you used your leadership skills, including the activity or experience and what you did.

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

Write and submit an essay with your application. High school applicants must submit a minimum of **500 words**, and graduate-level applicants must submit a minimum of **1,000 words**. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, and use a font size of **12**.

1) What individual or moment in black history (past or present) has influenced both your selection of major/ academic program and career path?

Influence from Black History

- Identify the individual or moment
- Explain *how* it inspired your major and career choice
- Connect their impact to your personal motivation

2) How will furthering your education in your chosen career enhance your role as contributing member of society and/or as a community leader

Education & Community Impact

- Explain how further education strengthens your skills
- Describe how you'll contribute to society or lead in your community and/or job industry
- Be specific about the change you want to make
- Demonstrate how the scholarship will assist the recipient in pursuing their degree

3) What are your goals in 5 years from now? What are your long-term goals on 10 years?

Future Goals (5 & 10 Years)

- 5-year goals: education completed, early career position, impact
- 10-year goals: leadership, mentorship, long-term contributions to the Lee County area (Southwest Florida area).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The scholarship will be awarded to the chosen student at the Juneteenth Celebration Program.
- The scholarship awarded may be merit and/or need based or based on LCBHS scholarship committee selection criteria.
- The recipient will be asked to provide a thank-you photo to be shared with **LCBHS** and the broader community. In addition, photos will be taken during the Juneteenth Program. Please submit your headshot photo at your earliest convenience to **scholarships@tlcbhs.org**
- By submitting this application, I grant permission to Lee County Black History Society, LCBHS, to use my submitted photo and any photographs taken during scholarship-related events for promotional purposes, including print materials, public communications, and social media platforms.
- The recipient of the award will be given a year membership to LCBHS. Contact LCBHS for your membership card.
- The decision of the LCBHS Scholarship Committee is Final.